

GP-303398

RAISED SURFACE FEATURES
FOR HOT BLOW-FORMING TOOLING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Apparatus and method for hot blow-forming an article from a blank of sheet metal. Simultaneously, a surface of the blank of sheet metal is formed against a form tool body that partially defines a forming surface and against a form tool insert that also partially defines the forming surface and that is positioned within a recess of the form tool body such that a lateral gap is defined between the form tool insert and form tool body. Opposed projections are provided on upper surfaces of the form tool insert and the form tool body adjacent the gap. The projections create a raised portion on the sheet metal panel that corresponds to the gap. The raised portion is removed flush with respect to a visible surface of the article.